



## Frequently Asked Questions 2018 Deer License Allocation Updated Amendments as of 12/07/2018

### 1. Why did the Department recommend and the Commission first propose this change?

In 2010, the Department surveyed deer hunters asking hunters if they would be in favor of a license system that would increase hunters' chances of drawing at least one "preferred" deer license.

#### East/West River Deer Hunters

*How strongly would you support or oppose a process that would increase resident hunters' chances of getting at least one buck deer license per year, knowing it would limit some hunters' chances of getting multiple buck licenses in a year?*

Summarized (n=2,821):

Oppose	9.9
Neutral/No Opinion	30.8
Favor	59.4

#### Black Hills Deer Hunters

*How strongly would you support or oppose a process that would increase resident hunters' chances of getting at least one buck deer license per year, knowing it would limit some hunters' chances of getting multiple buck licenses in a year?*

Summarized (n=2,585):

Oppose	21.2
Neutral/No Opinion	23.1
Favor	55.7

In 2014, 71% (n=4,054) of surveyed deer hunters and landowners supported the concept of increasing hunters' chances of drawing at least one buck license.

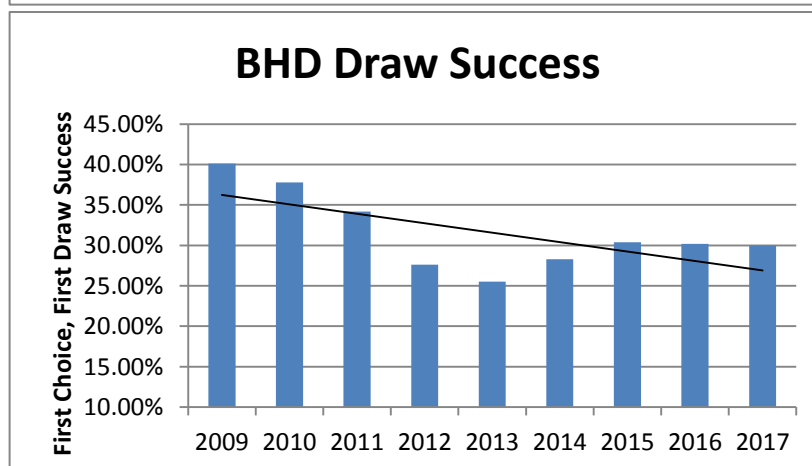
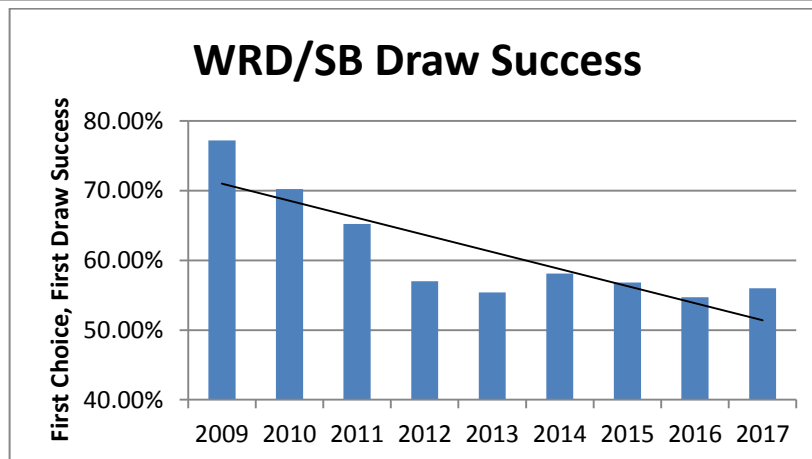
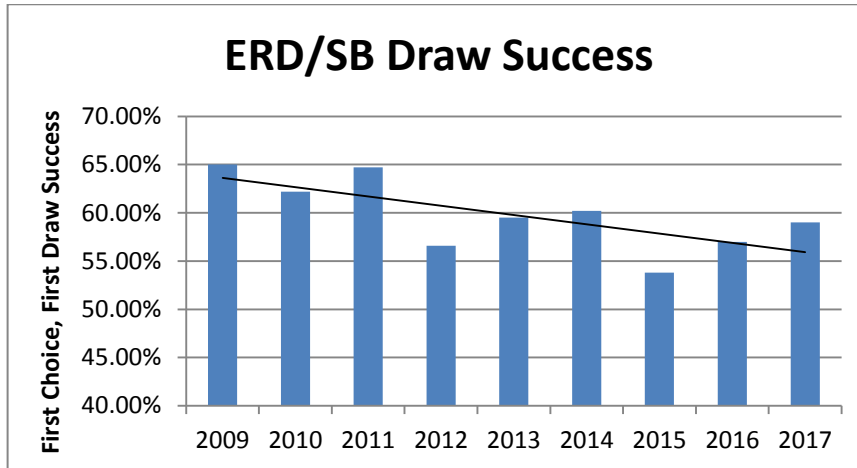
During the development of the statewide deer management plan several social management considerations were identified through stakeholder group meetings and public comments to the deer plan. One area which received considerable attention from the public was deer license allocation. The Commission work group had asked the Department to generate potential alternatives to the current license allocation process with an end goal of potentially increasing the number of hunters who would draw their "preferred" deer license.



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## 2. Has first choice, first draw success (odds of drawing a license) decreased over the last few years?

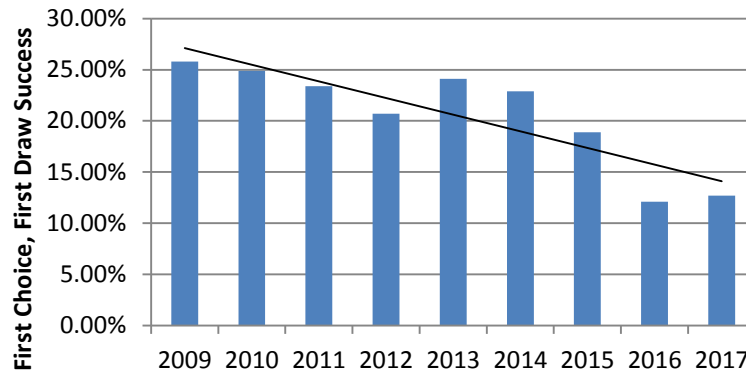




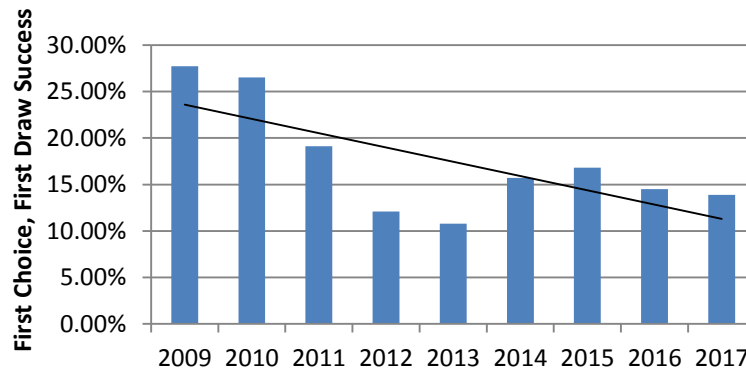
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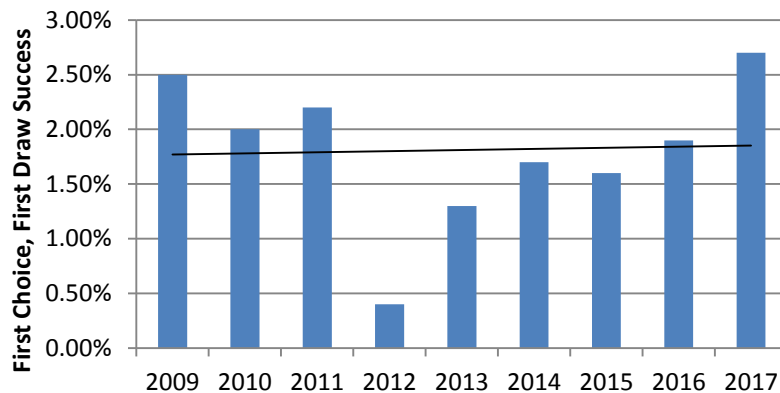
## MZD Draw Success



## RFD Draw Success



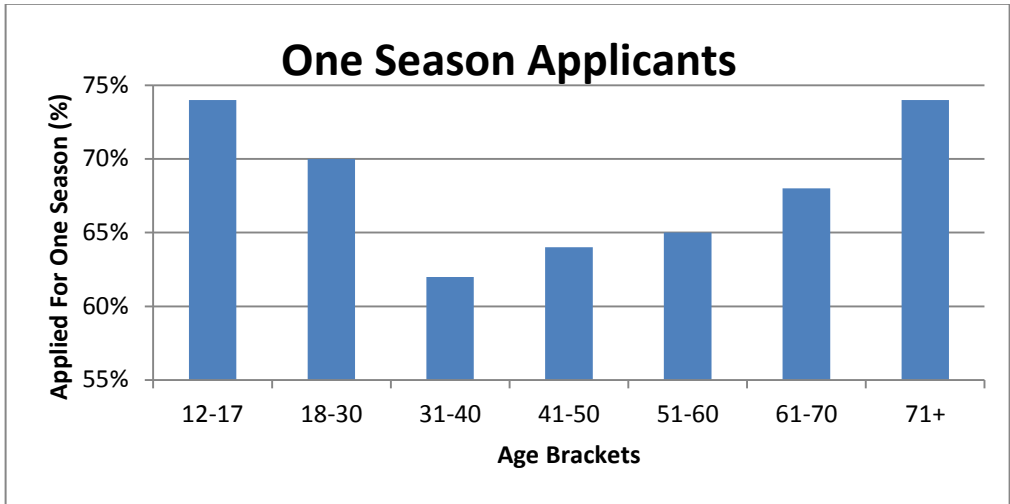
## CSP Draw Success





3. What are the stats of people and their ages applying for just one/preferred license?

Of the 52,633 deer applicants in 2017; 35,140 applied for just one season.



4. What is the biggest difference between the current system and the new deer license draw alternative?

Drawings for East River, West River, Black Hills, and Muzzleloader deer seasons would be combined for the First and Second Drawing and applicants would have to choose between one of the four seasons as their first and second choice in the first draw. Special buck, Custer State Park, and Refuge deer hunting seasons would remain under the current structure.

5. Through the 4<sup>th</sup> draw, residents can potentially get up to 9 licenses and nonresidents would be limited to 1. Can you elaborate on how this will work?

New:

Drawing	Resident	Nonresident
1 and 2	Maximum of 1 license in ERD, WRD, BHD, or MZD	Maximum of 1 BHD or WRD license
3	Maximum of 1 license in <u>each</u> of the WRD, ERD BHD and MZD seasons.	
4	Maximum of five additional licenses for a maximum total of nine licenses.	
Leftover Resident and Nonresident Licenses Pooled		
5	Unlimited. First-come, First-served	Unlimited. First-come, First-served



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### 6. Does the new system allow nonresidents an earlier opportunity or an advantage over the current system?

No, now it is more restrictive to nonresidents than our current system because it adds another draw tier before leftover licenses are pooled and made available to nonresidents. Our current system today, leftover licenses are pooled in the 3<sup>rd</sup> draw and made available to residents and non-residents where an applicant (both residents and nonresidents) through the 3<sup>rd</sup> draw could get a maximum of 5 licenses by submitting five separate applications if they had no licenses when the 3<sup>rd</sup> draw started.

**New:** Under the current proposal, leftover resident and nonresident licenses are not pooled until after the 4<sup>th</sup> drawing. This is a change from previously adopted rules (previously pooling of licenses was to occur before the 4<sup>th</sup> drawing). Nonresidents would continue to be limited to a maximum of one license through the 4<sup>th</sup> draw.

### 7. How are nonresidents more restrictive under this draw structure?

Under the revised proposal, resident and nonresident licenses would not be pooled until after the 4th drawing. This would allow nonresidents to obtain licenses originally allocated for residents only after residents have the opportunity to acquire multiple licenses in each of the four deer seasons included in the combined deer drawing.

### 8. Is the new system expected to generate more revenue for the Department?

No, the Department expects to be revenue neutral because the same number of deer licenses will be sold. There is a good chance the Department may lose revenue because fewer people may purchase preference points and fewer nonresident licenses may be sold because the proposal further restricts nonresident draw opportunities.

### 9. How will the amendments made during the December GFP Commission meeting enhance youth opportunities?

The GFP Commission is committed to enhancing youth hunting opportunities and their modified proposal would grant a “bonus” preference point to any first-time youth (age 12 through 15) applicant for the new combined deer drawing. In addition, all preference point fees for the four deer seasons included in the combined deer drawing would be waived for all youth applicants.

### 10. What does that 3<sup>rd</sup> draw look like?

Third Draw – Residents (including residents successful in the 1st or 2nd draw periods) have the opportunity to submit applications for any of the 4 seasons (East River, West River, Black Hills, Muzzleloader) they do not already possess a license from Drawing 1 or 2 with a maximum number of 4 licenses through the third drawing. The Department projects a greater amount of leftover licenses available for residents to pick up a 2nd buck license if desired in the 3rd draw.

Non-Residents successful in Drawing 1 or 2 cannot submit application in the third drawings. If unsuccessful in Drawing 1 or 2 a nonresident applicant has the opportunity to apply for a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice of available nonresident licenses (original 8%) from the Black Hills and West River deer seasons.

### 11. Tell me more about the 4<sup>th</sup> draw?

**New:** Fourth Draw – As proposed by the GFP Commission at the Dec. 7, 2018, meeting, resident hunters would be able to pick up 5 additional licenses and nonresidents would have the opportunity to acquire a leftover



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license from the original 8% allocations (Black Hills and West River Deer only) if they do not possess a license from Drawings 1-3. East River licenses would not be available to non-residents until after the 4<sup>th</sup> draw.

**12. If I didn't draw my 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> choice in the 1<sup>st</sup> draw, can I use my preference in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> draws to increase my draw odds?**

Yes, you can use preference through the 3<sup>rd</sup> drawings for either your 1st or 2nd choice if you click the "use my preference" box. If you never click the "use my preference" box then you can purchase preference for all four seasons. You would not earn a preference point for your unsuccessful application(s) in the first draw until the following year pending you agreed to purchase the \$5.00 preference point.

**13. Is the Department going to refund me for the preference points I purchased since 2015?**

No, you can use your accumulated preference in both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choices in drawings 1-3 if you choose to do so. So the use of accumulated preference for more than one season can be used in the same year.

**14. Can my 2<sup>nd</sup> choice be a different weapon/season than my 1<sup>st</sup> choice? E.g., 1<sup>st</sup> choice is ERD-07A can my 2<sup>nd</sup> choice be MZD?**

Yes, absolutely and you can click the box to use preference for muzzleloader for your 2nd choice as well.

**15. How does this impact group applications? What is the most important takeaway to know about group applications? What are the biggest changes?**

The group application process will remain unchanged. Applicants will still be able to submit a group application for a 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice, in the 1<sup>st</sup> draw season as long as the group uses the same group ID number.

**16. You stated that we would be taking approx. 21,500 applications out of the 1<sup>st</sup> draw. Can you help me understand this more? How does this differ from what we have currently?**

**Mock application draw projections:**

Residents Only		2017 Applicants: Apply for One Season	Mock Applications (Preferred Choice)	Projected Total Applicants	Applicants Removed from the First Draw:
	2017 Total Applicants				
ERD	32053	21983	5913	27896	4157
WRD	20422	8597	6405	15002	5420
BHD	13339	4599	2464	7063	6276
MZD	7847	528	1642	2170	5677
	<b>73661</b>	<b>35707</b>	<b>16424</b>	<b>52131</b>	<b>21530</b>



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## 17. Hard to draw units (took 2+ preference points in 2017) will remain hard to draw. What do you mean when you say this?

Drawing two hard to draw licenses (units that take 2+ preference points) in the same year will not happen.

- For example, a hunter cannot draw a MZD and a BHD license in the same year.
- Under the current system it is statistically impossible to draw one “hard to draw” unit within a season consecutively year after year.

Units/Licenses that took 2+ preference points to draw in 2017

WRD	ERD	MZD	BHD
15A01	05A01	ST101	BH101
20A01	07A01		
21A01	12A01		
24B11	17A01		
27A01	37A11		
27L01	38A01		
35C01	59A01		
35L01	61A01		
45B01	63A01		
58A01			
45D01			

## 18. How many residents applied for both an East River Deer and a West River Deer licenses in 2017?

6,485 applicants.

How many residents drew both an ERD and a WRD first choice license in 2017?

1,987 applicants

## 19. How does this impact landowner preference?

Eligible landowners can use landowner preference in their 1st draw; 1st choice application just as they can with the current system. A landowner can get a landowner own land license for the unit they own/operate land in and also apply for a 1st choice, 1st draw license in a different season.

## 20. Please explain how the Special Buck seasons work for East and West River.

Special Buck will not change. The Special Buck drawing will continue to be held earlier and if unsuccessful, a deer hunter can apply for the same season in the First Draw.

## 21. With the cubed preference point system now in place, does the new system provide even greater success rates for the preferred choice? Can you provide some context to connecting cubed preference points and this new system?

Preference points are now being cubed for all deer drawings, which increases applicants' draw odds that have more preference. The Department has received a lot of suggestions in regards to letting the cubed system function for a couple of years before more changes are implemented. The Department does believe cubing preference will increase an applicant's chances; however, making people choose a preferred season in the 1st draw will result in fewer applicants for all seasons, resulting in less preference points that are being cubed, thus increasing draw odds.



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**22. Approximately 3,800 additional hunters will have an opportunity to deer hunt and be in the field with family and friends, while the number of licenses offered stays the same. Can you expand on how important that is as we tackle recruitment, retention and reactivation efforts?**

<b>Residents Only- Proposed Alternative</b>		2017 Overall 1 <sup>st</sup> Draw Success	Projected 1 <sup>st</sup> Draw Success
	2017 Successful Applicants		
ERD	18955	59%	68%
WRD	11346	56%	76%
BHD	3999	30%	57%
MZD	1000	13%	46%
	<b>35300</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>68%</b>

- In 2017, 3,318 (20%) of the 16,424 applicants that applied for 2+ seasons actually drew 2+ first draw, first choice licenses.
- In 2017, 256 (2%) of the 3,716 applicants that applied for 3+ seasons actually drew 3+ first draw, first choice licenses.
- Nobody would have two licenses after the first draw for the four firearm season. In 2017, 3,583 deer hunters drew 7,440 first draw, first choice licenses; thus if they were limited to one first draw, first choice license, 3,857 licenses would be made available and would be allocated to someone who did not have a license under the current system, resulting in more deer hunters being able to hunt on an annual basis.

**23. How will the department determine if this process is working or is successful?**

The Department will analyze draw probabilities in 2022 after three years of implementation and draw statistics are available. At that time the Department will bring a recommendation to the Commission that would retain, modify or remove the new system that recently passed.

**24. Will the department conduct mock or draft draws before implementing?**

Yes, in order to test run the new programming language that will be necessary, the Department will set-up mock applications for testing.

**25. What is the timeline for implementation of the new system?**

These changes are tentatively scheduled to take place during the 2019 deer hunting seasons with the first draw deadline in June.